

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Upon initial review of the claims, it appears that *claims 30-42, 46-59, and 61-62* differ in subject matter and therefore require 2 different searches. In accordance, a restriction of the claims is deemed proper.
2. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:
 - I. *Claims 30-42, 46-50, and 56-59*, drawn to “*computer network managing: computer network monitoring*”, classified in class 709, subclass 224.
 - II. *Claims 51-55 and 61-62*, drawn to “*computer-to-computer session/connection establishing*”, classified in class 709, subclass 227.
3. Inventions I and II are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct if they do not overlap in scope and are not obvious variants, and if it is shown that at least one subcombination is separately usable. In the instant case, subcombination II has separate utility such as “*computer-to-computer session/connection establishing*”. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

The examiner has required restriction between subcombinations usable together. Where applicant elects a subcombination and claims thereto are subsequently found allowable, any claim(s) depending from or otherwise requiring all the limitations of the allowable subcombination will be examined for patentability in accordance with 37 CFR 1.104. See MPEP § 821.04(a). Applicant is advised that if any claim presented in a

continuation or divisional application is anticipated by, or includes all the limitations of, a claim that is allowable in the present application, such claim may be subject to provisional statutory and/or nonstatutory double patenting rejections over the claims of the instant application.

Because these inventions are independent or distinct for the reasons given above and there would be a serious burden on the examiner if restriction is not required because the inventions require a different field of search (see MPEP § 808.02), restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

4. During a telephone conversation with Zachary Smolinski, Reg. No. 47,100 on December 19, 2007 a election was made without traverse to prosecute the invention of I, *claims 30-42, 46-50, and 56-59. Claims 51-55 and 61-62 are withdrawn from further consideration by the examiner, 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a non-elected invention.*
5. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Drawings

6. The drawings are objected to because they are not presentable. A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid

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abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

New corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in this application because the current drawings do not show the elements with their associated text. Applicant is advised to employ the services of a competent patent draftsman outside the Office, as the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office no longer prepares new drawings. The corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The requirement for corrected drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Examiner's Amendment

4. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
5. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Zachary Smolinski (Reg. No. 47,100) on December 19, 2007.
6. The application has been amended as follows:

Please amend *claims 30, 33-36, and 56-57* as follow:

30. (Currently amended) A method of inserting a patch cord into first and second data ports in a local area network (LAN) comprising a computer system that

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controls the LAN, a plurality of data ports, a plurality of local system ports in communication with the computer system, and a visual indicator adjacent to each data port, the method comprising:

the computer system determining whether instructions to insert the patch cord into the first data port have been correctly completed by analyzing a temporary connection formed by insertion of one end of the patch cord into one of the data ports and insertion of another end of the patch cord into one of the system ports; ~~and~~

of the visual indicators adjacent to the data ports, altering a state of only the visual indicator adjacent to the first data port after the computer system determines that the instructions have been correctly completed to indicate that the instructions have been correctly completed, the state being altered before subsequent instructions to insert the other end of the patch cord into the second data port have been completed, the patch cord having been removed from the one of the system ports, thereby terminating the temporary connection, before the subsequent instructions have been completed;

providing the subsequent instructions after the instructions have been correctly completed, the second data port belonging to the subset of the plurality of data ports; and

of the visual indicators adjacent to the data ports, altering a state of only the visual indicator adjacent to the second data port after the subsequent instructions have been correctly completed to indicate that the subsequent instructions have been correctly completed.

34. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~33-30~~, further comprising activating the visual indicator associated the second data port only after the instructions have been correctly completed.

35. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~33-30~~, further comprising activating the visual indicators adjacent to the first and second data ports prior to the patch cord being inserted into the first data port.

36. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~33-30~~, further comprising, of the visual indicators adjacent to the first and second data ports, activating only the visual indicator adjacent to the first data port prior to the patch cord being inserted into the first data port.

51 - 55 (Cancelled)

56. (Currently amended) A method of inserting a patch cord into first and second data ports in a system comprising a visual indicator and a local area network (LAN) containing a computer system that controls the LAN, a plurality of data ports, a plurality of local system ports in communication with the computer system, the visual indicator separable from the data ports, the method comprising:

the computer system determining whether instructions to insert the patch cord into the first data port have been correctly completed by analyzing a temporary

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connection formed by insertion of one end of the patch cord into one of the data ports and insertion of another end of the patch cord into one of the system ports;

altering a state of the separable visual indicator in response to the computer determining that the instructions have been correctly completed to indicate that the instructions have been correctly completed, the state being altered before subsequent instructions to insert the other end of the patch cord into the second data port have been completed, the patch cord having been removed from the one of the system ports, thereby terminating the temporary connection, before the subsequent instructions have been completed;~~and~~

withholding the subsequent instructions until the instructions have been correctly completed;

providing directions to a general location of at least one of the first or second data port; and

providing further directions to the at least one of the first or second data port in response to an end of the patch cord being inserted into a local system port at the general location.

57. (Cancelled)

61 (Cancelled)

62 (Cancelled)

Response to Arguments

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7. The Applicant's arguments and amendments filed on September 21, 2007 have been fully considered and are persuasive.

Allowable Subject Matter

8. *Claims 30-32, 34-42, 46-50, 56, and 58-59* are allowed. The claims indicated include limitations that the prior arts of record do not appear to teach or render obvious, hence they are allowed.
9. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

As presented in the previous Office Action, Bartolutti et al. (US006522737B1) discloses, *"furthermore, paperless work order instruction can be fed directly to the telecommunications closet for a technician to read on-site"* (Bartolutti, col.4, lines 12-14). Bartolutti discloses, *"since each rack controller 30 has a large display 46, a technician can easily read information by viewing the various rack controller 30. This arrangement also enables technicians to receive paperless work orders"* (Bartolutti, col.6, lines 34-37). In addition, Bartolutti discloses, *"a technician can then read tat work order directly from the displays 46 of the rack controllers 30 when at the telecommunications closet. If a technician alters the telecommunications closet in a manner not corresponding to the work order, an error message can be automatically displayed to the technician"* (Bartolutti, col.6, lines 40-45). Hence, Bartolutti teaches of the rack controllers 30 providing to the technician the work orders (i.e., Applicant's providing instructions) via its display 46. The work order may be to connect a patch cord into any connector port 16 or to remove a patch cord from any connector port 16.

Also presented in the previous Office Action, Laor (US006002331A) discloses, *"also mounted on the brackets proximate to the adapters are rows of light emitting diodes (LED)"* (Laor, col.6, lines 12-14). Laor discloses, *"also in connection with the controller are the LED's. The LEDs 238 provide a connection status for adapters 214-228. In the embodiment shown, there are three individual LED's for each side of each adapter. The LED's serve a variety of purposes which will be described in greater detail below"* (Laor, col.6, lines 16-21). In addition, Laor discloses, *"providing connection status information through the LEDs may assist a technician in establishing correct connections at the communication bulkhead. In one embodiment of the invention, there are three LED's associated with each adaptor and they are red, yellow and green the system operator may program, through the user interface, the desired configuration of the communications panel. When the technician begins making connections according to the pre-programmed configuration, the LED's can be used to inform the technician whether an incorrect or correct connection is made. For example, if the technician makes a correct connection, the controller may be programmed to illuminate the green LED proximate to the adapter in which the connection was just made. Conversely, if an incorrect connection was made, the red LED will illuminate"* (Laor, col.6, lines 33-47). Hence, Laor teaches of using the LEDs (i.e., Applicant's visual indicators) to provide connection status information to the technician such as whether the connection made by the technician is correct or incorrect and illuminating the corresponding LED accordingly. However, the prior arts of record fail to teach or suggest individually or in combination as stated in the independent claims for *"the computer system determining whether instructions to insert the patch cord into the first data port have been correctly completed by analyzing a temporary connection formed by insertion of one end of the patch cord*

into one of the data ports and insertion of another end of the patch cord into one of the system ports; of the visual indicators adjacent to the data ports, altering a state of only the visual indicator adjacent to the first data port after the computer system determines that the instructions have been correctly completed to indicate that the instructions have been correctly completed, the state being altered before subsequent instructions to insert the other end of the patch cord into the second data port have been completed, the patch cord having been removed from the one of the system ports, thereby terminating the temporary connection, before the subsequent instructions have been completed” and in combination with other limitations as set forth in the independent claims, as well as Applicant’s arguments presented on pages 14-15 of the Amendment filed on September 21, 2007. In the fore mentioned amendment, the Applicant argued, “Neither Bartolutti nor Laor anticipates or suggests forming a temporary connection between one of the data ports and one of the system ports, which is terminated before the patch cord is inserted into the second of the two desired data ports. Nor do Bartolutti or Laor anticipate or suggest that the computer system determines whether the instructions have been correctly completed by analysis of the temporary connection” (pg.14, lines 10-14) and “In addition to the reasons provided above for Claim 30, neither Bartolutti nor Laor anticipates or suggests a method in which subsequent instructions to insert the end of the patch cord (which has been inserted in a system port) into a data port are withheld until instructions to insert a different end of the patch cord into a different data port have been correctly completed” (pg.15, lines 3-6).

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany

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the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thomas Duong whose telephone number is 571/272-3911. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:30AM - 4:00PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jason D. Cardone can be reached on 571/272-3933. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 571/273-8300 for regular communications and 571/273-8300 for After Final communications.

Thomas Duong (AU2145)

December 31, 2007

/Jason D Cardone/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2145